

SECOND AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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Serial No.: 09/479,648

Filed: January 7, 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

REMARKS

Applicants received the Advisory Action dated 17 December 2002. Claims 20-28, 41, 42, 45-56, and 62-66 have been cancelled, and new claims 67-72 presented. Upon entry of the amended and new claims, claims 29-31, 34-40, 57-61, and 67-72 will be pending.

Although Applicants continue to respectfully disagree with the rejections presented in the Final Office Action of October 7, 2002, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims and made amendments to place the present application in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims and dispute the assertions made in support of the rejections of those claims in continuation applications.

Amended Claim 57

Applicants note that claim 64 was indicated as allowable in the Advisory Action and the Final Office Action. Claim 64 depended directly from independent claim 57. Applicants present herewith proposed amended claim 57 including the recitations of canceled claim 64.

As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 57 and its dependent claims 58-61 are all in condition for allowance.

New Claim 67

New claim 67 is presented as a corollary to allowable claim 29. Allowable claim 29 recites a method involving the use of allowable independent method claim 34. New claim 67 recites the method of allowable claim 29, but substitutes the use of allowable independent method claim 57. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 67 is supported by the application as filed (by, e.g., original claim 29 and at page 9, lines 8-14 of the Specification).

As a result, entry, consideration and allowance of independent claim 67 are respectfully requested.

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New Claims 68-72

New claims 68-72, all of which depend from allowable claim 30 are presented for entry, consideration and allowance. The new claims provide more comprehensive protection for the claimed invention. Further, these claims recite features that are disclosed in the application as filed at, e.g., original claims 11, 12, 19, and 25, as well as in the Specification at, e.g., page 5, lines 22-28.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry, consideration, and allowance of new claims 68-72.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that claims 29-31, 34-40, 57-61, and 67-72 as presented herein are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Attn: BOX AF, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 6th day of February, 2003, at 12:56 PM (Central Time).

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Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX A - AMENDMENTS INCLUDING NOTATIONS TO INDICATE CHANGES
MADE****Serial No.: 09/479,648
Docket No.: 54655US009**

Amendments to the following are indicated by underlining what has been added and bracketing what has been deleted. Additionally, all amendments to preexisting claims have been put in bold typeface.

In the Claims

For convenience, all pending claims are shown below.

29. A method of saving labor of adhering an adhesive-coated film to a substrate having a surface, comprising:
- (a) distributing a film to a party that has been taught to use the method of Claim 34;
 - (b) optionally permitting such party to print an image on the film; and
 - (c) permitting such party to use the method to adhere the film to a surface of the substrate.
30. A kit for application of films to a substrate, comprising:
- a) a Heat Neutral Pressure source, and
 - b) a heat source adapted for applying heat to an adhesive coated film during application to a substrate.
31. The kit of claim 30, further comprising a film having removable adhesive coated thereon.
34. A method of applying an adhesive-coated film to a substrate, the method comprising: providing a film comprising pressure sensitive adhesive coated on a major surface of the film;
- heating the film to the softening point of the film; and
 - pressing the film against a substrate with a Heat Neutral Pressure Source after heating the film, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive on the major surface of the film adheres to the substrate.

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Appendix A

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35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using hot air.
36. A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using infrared radiation.
37. A method according to claim 34, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a Thermal Conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F.
38. A method according to claim 34, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises open cell foam material.
39. A method according to claim 34, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a roller.
40. A method according to claim 34, wherein the substrate comprises a highly textured surface.
57. (AMENDED) A method of applying an adhesive-coated film to a substrate, the method comprising:
- providing a film comprising pressure-sensitive adhesive coated on a major surface of the film;
 - heating the film to the softening point of the film using a heat source; and
 - pressing the film against a substrate with a Heat Neutral Pressure Source, the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprising a Thermal Conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F, wherein the adhesive on the major surface of the film adheres to the substrate.

Appendix A

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58. A method according to claim 57, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using hot air.
59. A method according to claim 57, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using infrared radiation.
60. A method according to claim 57, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises open cell foam material.
61. A method according to claim 57, wherein the substrate comprises a highly textured surface.
67. (NEW) A method of saving labor of adhering an adhesive-coated film to a substrate having a surface, comprising:
- (a) distributing a film to a party that has been taught to use the method of Claim 57;
 - (b) optionally permitting such party to print an image on the film; and
 - (c) permitting such party to use the method to adhere the film to a surface of the substrate.
68. (NEW) A kit according to claim 30, wherein the heat source generates hot air.
69. (NEW) A kit according to claim 30, wherein the heat source generates infrared radiation.
70. (NEW) A kit according to claim 30, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a Thermal Conductivity of less than $1.8 \text{ BTU/hr-in-ft}^2\text{-}^\circ\text{F}$.
71. (NEW) A kit according to claim 30, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises open cell foam material.

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72. (NEW) A kit according to claim 30, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a roller.